

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ TUR: RSDILLON: CMH

5/29/73 X 20714

APPROVED BY NEA: JJSISCO

NEA - MR. DAVIES

S/ S - MR. BARNES

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P 292058 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

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EXDIS

E. O.11562: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TU

SUBJ: YANIKIYAN CASE: SISCO- ESENBEL MAY 25 CONVERSATION

REF : STATE 101726

1. AT HIS REQUEST TURK AMB ESENBEL CALLED ON NEA ASST SEC SISCO MAY 25 TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN ABOUT LETTER FROM SANTA BARBARA DISTRICT ATTORNEY MINIER TO ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARDSON, WITH COPY TO ESENBEL, COMPLAINING ABOUT FBI FAILURE TO PRODUCE A TRANSLATION OF 119 PAGE MANUSCRIPT TYPED IN ARMENIAN WHICH YANIKIYAN HAD SENT TO SEVERAL PEOPLE AND NEWSPAPERS. TEXT OF LETTER SENT REFTEL. NEA/ TUR DIRECTOR DILLON ALSO PRESENT.

2. ESENBEL SAID HE WISHED TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN ABOUT REVELATION THAT FBI HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO PRODUCE IMPORTANT TRANSLATION. TIME NOW GROWING SHORT AS TRIAL TO START MAY 29. NOTING THAT SISCO HAD COPY HE WOULD NOT READ FULL TEXT, BUT WISHED TO DRAW SISCO' S PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO NEXT TO LAST PARAGRAPH IN WHICH MINIER SPECULATED " THAT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NOT OVERLY INTERESTED IN ASSISTING IN THE PRO-
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SECUTION OF THE ASSASSIN," AND TO LAST PARAGRAPH IN WHICH MINIER ASSERTED " DIFFICULTY SEEMS TO LIE, APPARENTLY, WITH THE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY IN WASHINGTON."

3. SISCO REPLIED THAT FACTS SURROUNDING FRUSTRATIONS IN SECURING TRANSLATION WERE SUBSTANTIALLY AS STATED IN LETTER. CONCLUSION THAT USG NOT OVERLY INTERESTED IN ASSISTING PROSECUTION TOTALLY FALSE. FBI HAD LOST SERVICES OF TRANSLATOR WITH WHOM IT HAD CONTRACTED BECAUSE OF FAMILY TRAGEDY, BUT WAS MAKING EXHAUSTIVE SEARCH TO FIND NEW TRANSLATOR. FBI HAS BEEN COMPLETELY COOPERATIVE WITH SANTA BARBARA AUTHORITIES AND HAS LITERALLY DEVOTED THOUSANDS OF MAN HOURS TO CASE. FBI FILE ON CASE IS MASSIVE AND ALL MATERIAL MADE AVAILABLE TO DISTRICT ATTORNEY. ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT MAKE JUDGEMENT ON IMPORTANCE OR RELEVANCE OF ANY ONE PIECE OF EVIDENCE, THERE SEEMED TO BE MASSIVE AMOUNT OF EVIDENCE FOR PROSECUTOR TO USE; DEPARTMENT UNDERSTOOD 119 PAGE MANUSCRIPT WAS HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF TURKISH- ARMENIAN DIFFICULTIES. IN ANY EVENT HE COULD ASSURE ESENBEL THAT USG DETERMINED THAT CASE BE PROSECUTED TO FULLEST EXTENT OF LAW.

4. ESENBEL SPECULATED THAT ARMENIAN- AMERICANS WHO MIGHT UNDERTAKE TRANSLATION WERE UNDER PRESSURE FROM OTHER ARMENIANS NOT TO COOPERATE WITH PROSECUTION OF YANIKIYAN. DILLON REPLIED THAT WE HAD NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION INDICATING THAT WAS PROBLEM.

5. SISCO INSTRUCTED DILLON TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH FBI AND KEEP ESENBEL INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS. CONVERSATION TURNED TO OTHER SUBJECTS.

6. FYI: DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THERE POSSIBILITY ESENBEL' S SPECULATION NOT FAR OFF MARK. THERE HAS BEEN CAMPAIGN IN ARMENIAN PRESS TO CREATE SYMPATHY FOR YANIKIYAN WITHOUT CONDONING ACT OF MURDER. ALSO, WE HAVE INFORMATION ALLEGING ARMENIAN DEMONSTRATION IN CONNECTION WITH TRIAL. WE PURSUING OUR OWN CONTACTS IN EFFORT TO ASSIST IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FINDING TRANSLATOR. FBI HAD ALREADY OBTAINED NAMES FROM OPR/ LS WITHOUT SUCCESS. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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